

# Suggested Sound Bites

## Medicaid Deficit

### Quick Action Needed

“There are **poor, sick Mississippians** who run the risk of being turned away when they go the pharmacy or the doctor on March 12 if the Legislature does not act quickly on the Medicaid deficit.”

### One Choice

“We cannot tax or cut enough in just four months to save Medicaid for our beneficiaries – the math just doesn’t work. Our only option is to **invest Health Care Trust Fund dollars** into Medicaid.”

“Here is the choice: we either **invest Health Care Trust Fund dollars** into Medicaid or poor, sick Mississippians run the risk of being turned away at the pharmacy or the doctor’s office on March 12.”

### PLAD Reform Could Have Helped

“This desperate situation could have been avoided last year. **I tried to save Medicaid** by transitioning PLAD recipients to Medicare, but some legislators changed their mind and didn’t want reform. Now their only options affect 100% of our Medicaid population and not just 6% of them.”

### Using “Health Care Trust Fund” for Health Care

“Most states don’t use the majority of their settlement money on health care, which was the original intent of the lawsuits. Mississippi **investing some of its Health Care Trust Fund money into life-saving drugs and treatments for our Medicaid recipients** is as good a health care expenditure as I can think of.”

**Medicaid is a *trust* and Medicaid is *health care*** – that makes it a very appropriate use of the “Health Care Trust Fund.”

## **Partnership**

### Advertising or Poor, Sick Mississippians

“Here is the question: If you had a \$1 billion state shortfall and you had access to \$20 million in new money and had the choice to spend it on anti-tobacco advertising or on poor children and adults who don't have enough money for the life-saving drugs and treatments they need to live -- regardless of how noble the prevention program may be -- how would YOU spend the money?”

Unless something changes, somewhere soon there is going to be a child at home in Mississippi who cannot see a doctor or get medication because Medicaid is broke....but at least he'll be able to see a cute, expensive Partnership ad on his TV.

### PEER

“I did not dream this up on my own. I just read the PEER report which was very clear. PEER called the Partnership ‘unconstitutional’ and said the Attorney General should seek to dissolve the court order creating it so the Legislature could appropriate those funds. **I am going to ask the Legislature to invest this money in helping our Medicaid beneficiaries.**”

### Anti-Tobacco Programs for Less

**“The Partnership does some good work. But \$20 million a year?**

That \$20 million is almost twice as much as the state spends on fighting drugs and \$7 million more than what the state spends on agriculture! Couldn't anti-tobacco efforts in Mississippi continue for less?”

\$20 million = \$85+ million = 50,000 kids

“Thanks to the federal government’s 3-to-1 match rate, Mississippi could invest the Partnership’s \$20 million into our struggling Medicaid program and turn it into more than \$85 million a year. **Partnership funds could pay for medication and treatment for 50,000 kids on Medicaid by itself right now.**”

The Public Has a Right to Know

“The Partnership has refused a performance audit by the State Auditor and refused to release their financial statements. What are they hiding?”